

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Chemical Weapons

December 22, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I hereby certify in connection with Condition (7)(C)(i), Effectiveness of Australia Group, that:

Australia Group members continue to maintain an equally effective or more comprehensive control over the export of toxic chemicals and their precursors, dual-use processing equipment, human, animal, and plant pathogens and toxins with potential biological weapons application, and dual-use biological equipment, as that afforded by the Australia Group as of April 25, 1997; and,

The Australia Group remains a viable mechanism for limiting the spread of chemical and biological weapons-related materials and technology, and the effectiveness of the Australia Group has not been undermined by changes in membership, lack of compliance with common export controls and nonproliferation measures, or the weakening of common controls and nonproliferation measures, in force as of April 25, 1997.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23.

Statement on the Death of Tom Henderson

December 23, 1999

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Tom Henderson, a

member of my Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS and a senior staff person at the Environmental Protection Agency. Tom was a longtime friend to both of us and combined great intelligence with a sharp Texas wit. He was a strong and effective advocate for our efforts to combat AIDS, the disease that eventually took his life. We will miss Tom, as will members of the Council, his colleagues at the EPA and the White House, and the hundreds of people around the country who were blessed to know him as a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his partner Michael, his daughter Melissa, and all of those like us who grieve his loss.

Christmas Greeting to the Nation

December 24, 1999

The President. On this holiest of holidays, Hillary and I would like to wish all of you a very merry Christmas. This is a season of joy, a time for family and friends to rejoice in one another's company and in the magic of Christmas. This is also the season of peace.

On behalf of all Americans, I'd like to send a special greeting to the brave men and women in uniform who are serving our country in lands far from home. Thank you for the greatest gift of the season, for protecting our Nation and safeguarding the blessings we all hold dear.

The First Lady. At the dawn of this new millennium, let us reflect on our hopes, our dreams, and the gifts we can give to the future. So let all of us cherish the gift of every child among us and pledge to build a world where all children, no matter where they are born, can make their dreams come true.

The President. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The greeting was videotaped at approximately 2:30 p.m. in Room 459 in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building for later broadcast and was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23 but was embargoed for release until 12:01 a.m., December 24. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this greeting.

Christmas Greeting to the Nation

December 24, 1999

The President. On this holiest of holidays, Hillary and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. This is a season of joy, a time for family and friends to rejoice in one another's company and in the magic of Christmas.

The First Lady. At the dawn of this new millennium, let us reflect on our hopes, our dreams, and the gifts we can give to the future. Let us all cherish the gift of every child among us and pledge to build a world worthy of all our children.

The President. May the spirit of the season be with you today and throughout the new year. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, may God bless you all.

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Christmas Greeting to the Nation

December 24, 1999

The President. On this holiest of holidays, Hillary and I wish all of you a very merry Christmas. At the dawn of a new millennium, let us reflect on our hopes, our dreams, the gifts we can give to the future.

The First Lady. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may God bless you all.

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Radio Remarks for the "Lost Lives" Christmas Eve Broadcast

December 24, 1999

3625, Maura Monaghan, from Tyrone. A Catholic girl, just 18 months old. To her family, little Maura Monaghan was known simply as "Mossie." She was the youngest victim of the Omagh bombing. Her mother, Avril, her grandmother, Mary Grimes, and her unborn twin sisters also were killed on that Saturday afternoon, the 15th of August, 1998, at 10 past 3 p.m., when that terrible bomb exploded.

They had gone to Omagh town as a special treat, to celebrate Mary Grimes' birthday. They had even been to church earlier that day, the same church where their funeral services would be held just a few days later.

I still feel a personal connection with this tragedy. Two weeks later, Hillary and I visited Omagh. We saw the scene where 31 people were killed in the worst, single incident of The Troubles. And then we went to the Leisure Center, where the families of the victims had had to wait for news of their loved ones. They were again to meet us, as were many victims who had been terribly injured on that day.

That meeting was one of the most difficult and moving experiences of our lives. But I have to say, it was also one of the most uplifting. Again and again, people who had been injured or lost loved ones said, "Keep going with the peace process. Keep going, and don't give up on it. Do whatever you can to make sure that nobody else suffers as we are suffering."

I know they suffer still. I know the first dawn of the new millennium will be a sad time for those who remember the family and friends who should still be with them. But I never forgot their courage and their faith in the new beginning for Northern Ireland and neither did so many of you, who raised your voices and said, "Enough is enough."

And so we kept going. And now it looks as though, after all the difficulties, the new day we've been talking about for so long is finally at hand.

And so today, on Christmas Eve, we remember little Maura Monaghan, Mossie, a beautiful, curly-haired angel who was loved